THE HUMAN FLY™
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
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THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!
THE HUMAN FLY
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TM
A CHARITY STUNT FLINGS THE FLY INTO CONFLICT AGAINST THE INCREDIBLE COPPERHEAD!
MAYHEM AT THE METROPOLITAN!
SPECIAL GUEST: THE WHITE TIGER!
A MrBC SCAN

One night in 1971, on a lonely North Carolina highway, a head-on *car crash* cost a young driver his family—and, very nearly, his *life!* Hardly a bone in his body remained *unbroken*. His doctors were *sure* that he would never *move* again. . . But he *triumphed* over his disability and went on to become the *wildest hero* of all—because he's *REAL!*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!

BILL MANTLO WRITER / FRANK ROBBINS ARTIST / NEW YORK TRIBE INKS / JOE ROSEN LETTERS MARY TITUS COLORS / ARCHIE GOODWIN EDITOR

THE TIGER AND THE FLY!

OUR STORY BEGINS AT NEW YORK CITY'S METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART--

-- WHERE AN INNOVATIVE YOUNG CURATOR HAS TURNED A CULTURAL PALACE INTO AN INNER CITY FESTIVAL!

INNER CITY FESTIVAL

CARAJO! THAT HOMBRE CAN MOVE!

I BROUGHT MY WHOLE SKATE-BOARD CLUB TO SEE THIS!

ZZROOOM!

WOW!

AND THE PEOPLE COME--ALL AGES, ALL RACES--FOR THE MUSIC, THE CULTURE, THE FOOD--

-- AND THE HUMAN FLY!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ADAM MANTLO OF THE SUNCREST SKY-DIVERS SKATEBOARD CLUB FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE!

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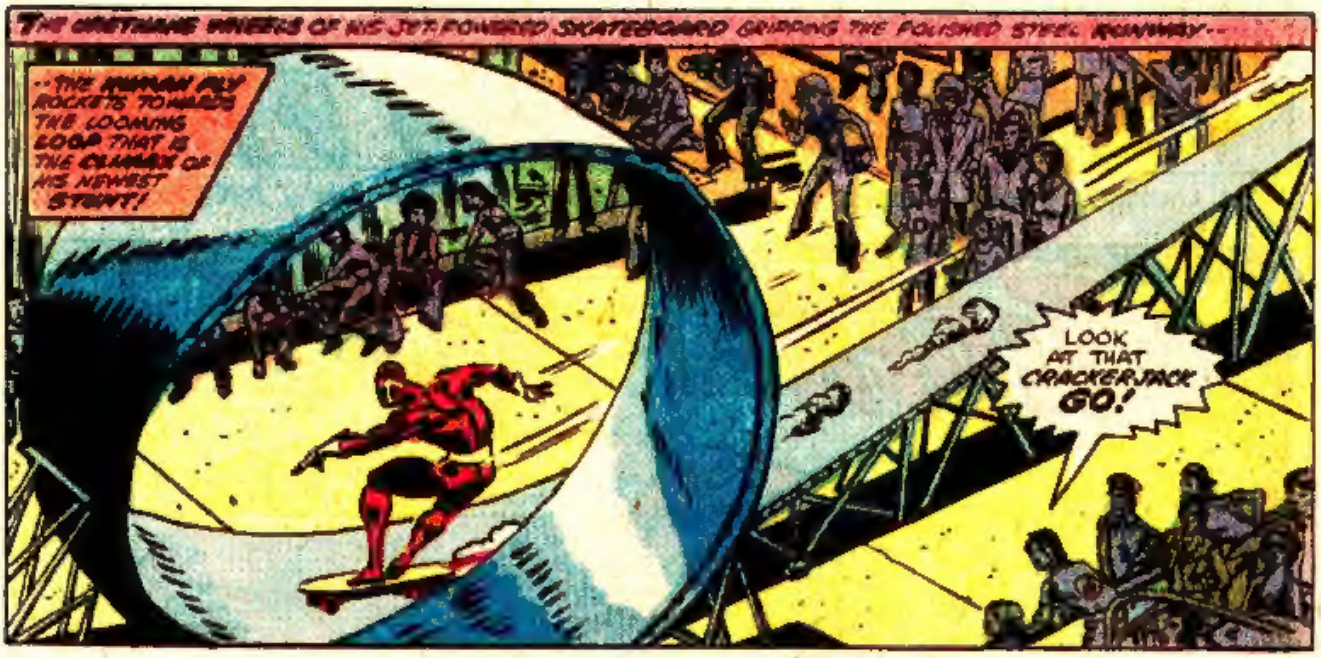
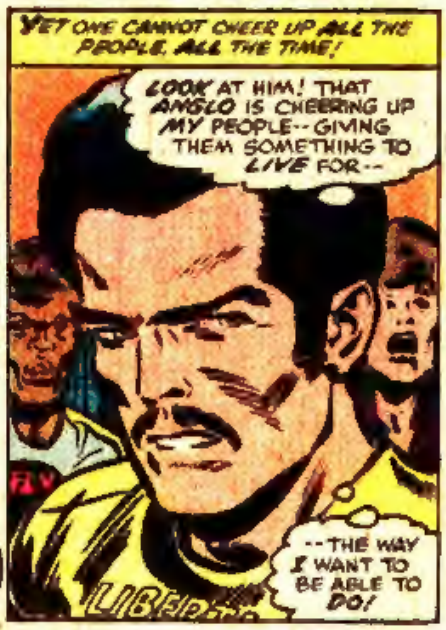
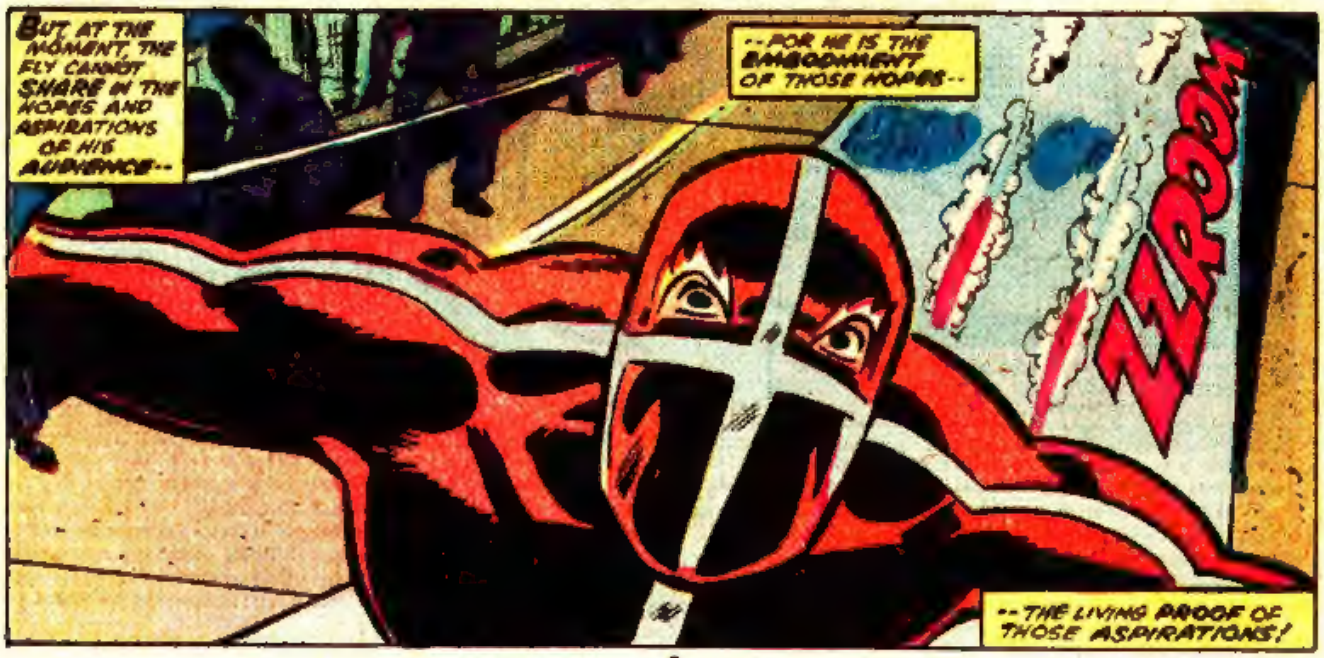
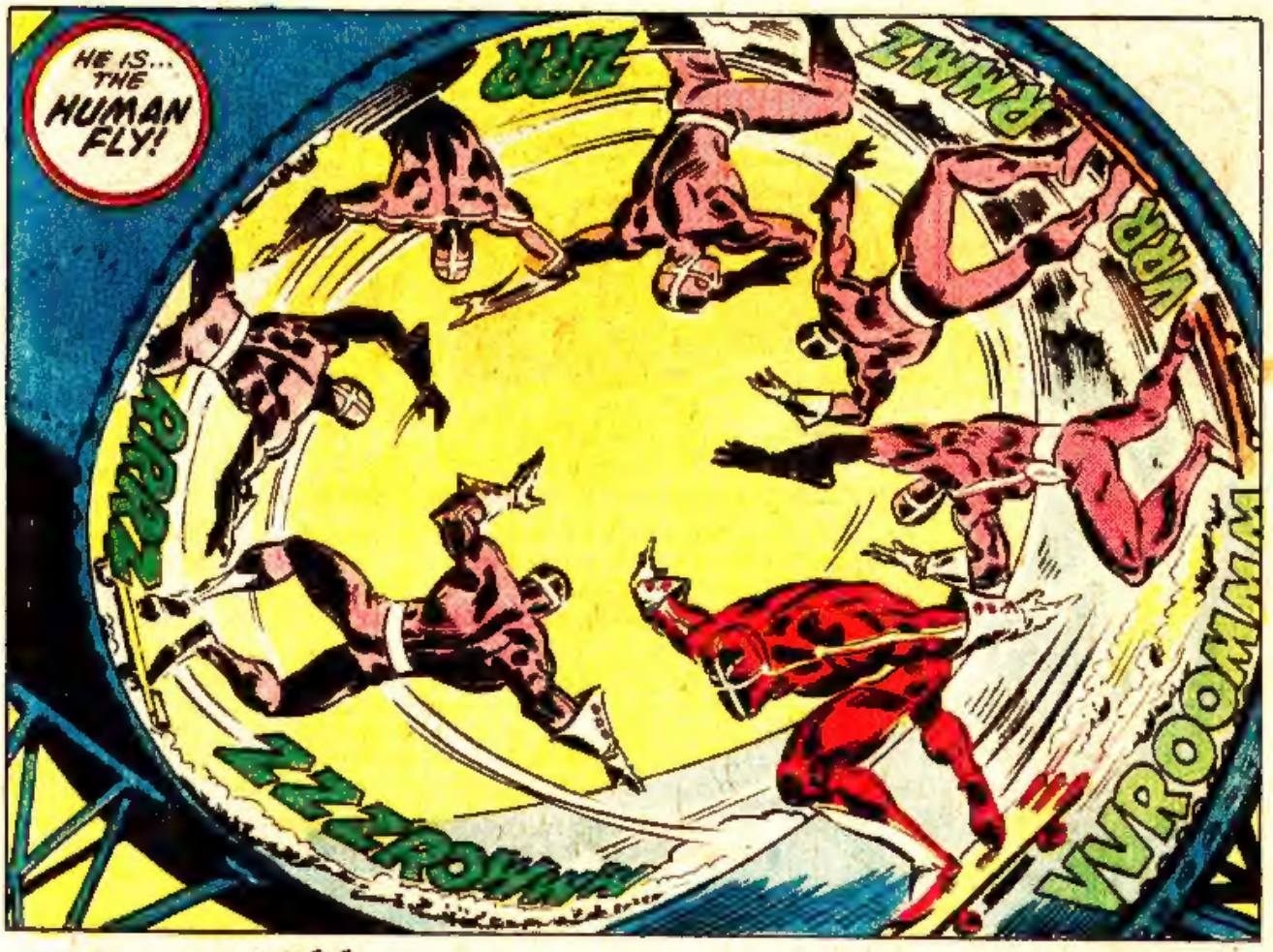

THE URETHANE WHEELS OF HIS JET-POWERED SKATEBOARD GRIPPING THE POLISHED STEEL RUNWAY--
--THE HUMAN FLY ROCKETS TOWARD THE LOOMING LOOP THAT IS THE CLIMAX OF HIS NEWEST STUNT!
LOOK AT THAT CRACKERJACK GO!

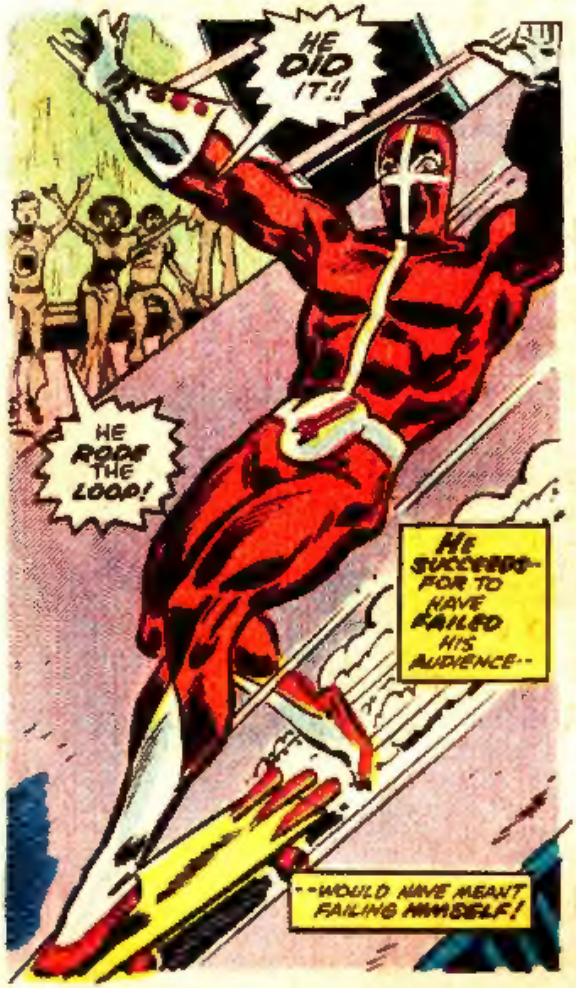
THE KIDS ARE CRAZY WITH EXCITEMENT, TED!
YOU BET THEY ARE, ARNIE! THIS BEATS THEIR WILDEST DREAMS!
SURE! SKATE-BOARDING IS SOMETHING THEY CAN IDENTIFY WITH!

BUT BLAZE KENDALL AND THE REST OF THE FLY'S CREW AREN'T THE ONLY ADULT SPECTATORS...
CAMERAS ARE ON THE FLY, MS. WHYTE!
THIS STUNT--AT THIS FESTIVAL--WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS!
FOR KIDS WHO RACE ON ASPHALT STREETS A JET-POWERED SKATEBOARD MUST SEEM LIKE HEAVEN!


YET ONE CANNOT CHEER UP ALL THE PEOPLE, ALL THE TIME!
LOOK AT HIM! THAT AMSLO IS CHEERING UP MY PEOPLE--GIVING THEM SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR--
--THE WAY I WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO!


BUT AT THE MOMENT, THE FLY CANNOT SHARE IN THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF HIS AUDIENCE--
--FOR HE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THOSE HOPES--
ZZROOM
--THE LIVING PROOF OF THOSE ASPIRATIONS!





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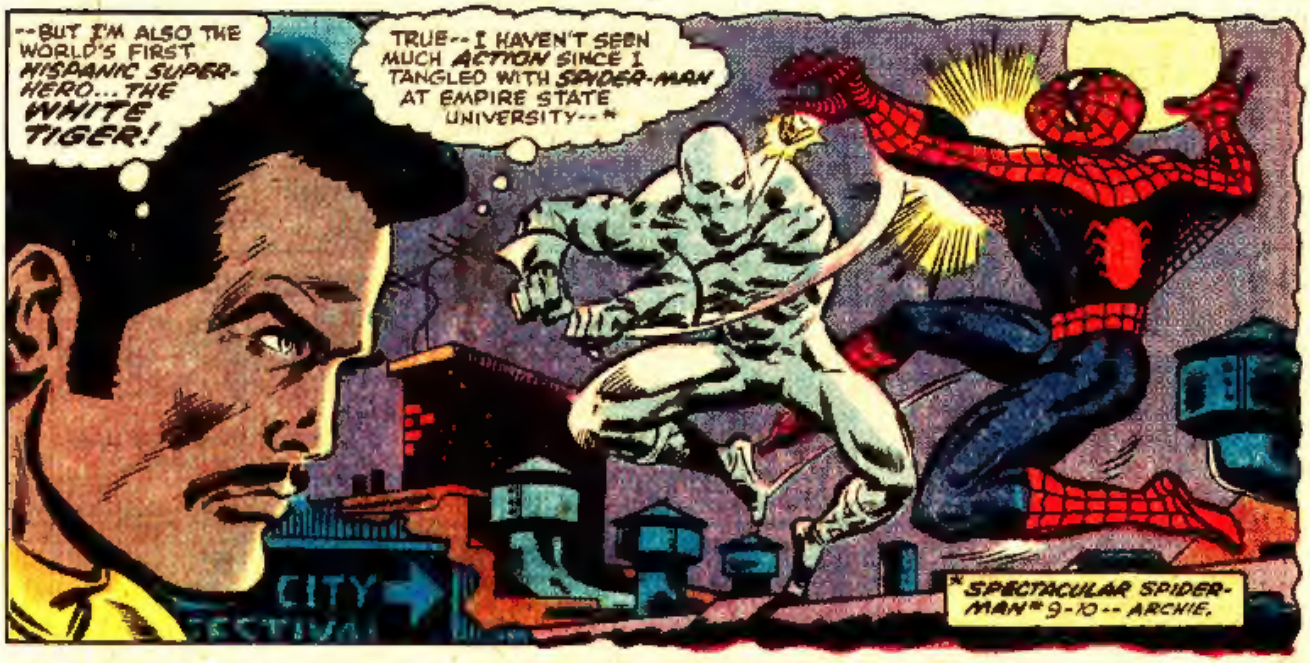
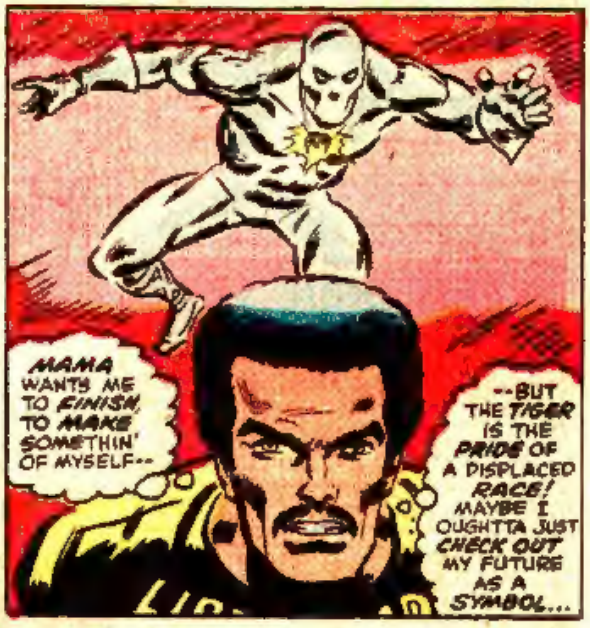
THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS FESTIVAL--A CELEBRATION FOR CITY KIDS WHOSE LIVES DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER--
--ALL THE CREDIT FOR THAT GOES TO YOU-- MARGARITA MERCADO-- THE YOUNGEST WOMAN CURATOR IN THE COUNTRY!
YOU ARE AS GALLANT AS YOU ARE COURAGEOUS, FLY!
LOOK AT ME! I'M THE HUMAN FLY!
CARE TO MAKE A STATEMENT FOR THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE, FLY?
CERTAINLY, HARMONY-- AND THANK YOU FOR THE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY COVERAGE YOU'VE BEEN GIVING ME SINCE THE WINTER CARNIVAL IN VERMONT! *
"LAST ASH-- ARCHIE.
I JUST WANT TO REAFFIRM MY PURPOSE... TO GIVE HOPE TO THOSE DISABLED-- LIKE I WAS-- IN ANY WAY... CRIPPLED BY DISEASE, IGNORANCE OR POVERTY!
HE-- HE MEANS IT, AND I BELIEVE IN HIM! YET IT WILL COST ME MY JOB UNLESS I EXPOSE HIS SECRET IDENTITY TO A SENSATION-HUNGRY WORLD!
HARMONY WHYTE'S ISN'T THE ONLY SOUL IN TORMENT AS THE FESTIVAL BEGINS.
MEET HECTOR AYALA... A RATHER SPECIAL YOUNG MAN WITH A RATHER UNIQUE SET OF PROBLEMS!
INNER CITY FESTIVAL
LIBERTAD PARA PUERTO RICO
EVERYBODY'S LOOKING FOR THEIR "ROOTS" THESE DAYS--
AN' I GUESS THAT INCLUDES ME! I'M A PUERTO RICAN--
--THAT GOT HIMSELF BORN IN NEW YORK! I'M A FAILURE AT SCHOOL--


--BUT I'M ALSO THE WORLD'S FIRST HISPANIC SUPER-HERO... THE WHITE TIGER!
TRUE-- I HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH ACTION SINCE I TANGLED WITH SPIDER-MAN AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY--*
CITY
* SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ 9-10 -- ARCHIE.

INNER CITY FESTIVAL
LIBERTAD AHORA!
--BUT, MORE AND MORE, SOMETHING KEEPS TELLIN' ME I AIN'T REALLY CUT OUT TO BE THE SCHOLASTIC TYPE!
AN' WITH FREE TUITION GONE-- IT'S A HASSLE JUST BEIN' ABLE TO AFFORD SCHOOL!


MAMA WANTS ME TO FINISH, TO MAKE SOMETHIN' OF MYSELF--
--BUT THE TIGER IS THE PRIDE OF A DISPLACED RACE! MAYBE I OUGHTTA JUST CHECK OUT MY FUTURE AS A SYMBOL...

WHILE, IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ON THE MUSEUM'S SECOND FLOOR...
NO-- PLEASE! I-- I GAVE YOU WHAT YOU WANTED!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAN-- DON'T SHOOT!!
I AM SSSORRY, MR. WYLIE--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BUT...YESSS--COPPERHEAD DOESSS HAVE WHAT HE CAME FOR!
THUSSS, IN ALL GRATITUDE, I MUSSST NOT ALLOW YOU TO PASSS FROM THISSS WORLD UNREWARDED!
SSSO I GRANT YOU A PARTING GIFT OF VERSSSE! TO QUOTE THE POETESSS--
--"IN YONDER DEATH HE LIESSS--
"--THERE WITH ANNIESSS ON HISSS EYESSS!"
CONSSIDER THEM A DONATION, MR. WYLIE--TO PAY YOUR FARE ACROSS THE RIVER SSSTYX!
NOW THERE ISSS NO ONE WHO SSSHARES MY SSSECRET--
--AND NO ONE WHO CAN POSSSIBLY SSSTOP ME!
AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF COPPERHEAD FOR THE MOMENT--
---AND REJOIN THE FLY WHO, WITH HIS CREW AND THE ATTRACTIVE CURATOR, GUIDES A GROUP OF WIDE-EYED YOUNGSTERS PAST THE MYRIAD MARVELS OF MAN'S HISTORICAL PAST!
GOSH! HOW'D THEY EVER MOVE INSIDE ALL THAT JUNK, MR. BERMAN?
MOST OF IT WAS PURELY DECORATIVE, ADAM--ONLY WORN FOR PARADES AND CEREMONIES!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS EXHIBIT, FLY?
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE STUNTMEN, SENORITA MERCADO--
REMINDS ME OF THE SUIT I HAD TO WEAR AT MY BROTHER'S GRADUATION!
--JUST TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOUNT THEIR HORSES WEARING ALL THAT ARMOR!

PERHAPS THEIR ARMOR SERVED TO DISGUISE THEIR TRUE AMBITIONS, FLY--
--THE WAY YOU DISGUISE YOURS BENEATH A MASK?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, HARMONY?
OH, JUST THAT MAYBE THE CRUSADING KNIGHTS OF OLD WERE JUST AS MUCH ADVENTUROUS, MERCENARY GLORY-SEEKERS--
--AS A CERTAIN... HUMAN FLY?
WHAT?? WHY YOU BLEACHED-BLONDE LITTLE WITCH! HOW COULD YOU--AFTER THE FLY SAVED YOUR LIFE?!"
HOW MUCH ARE THEY PAYING YOU, JUDAS? HOW MANY PIECES OF SILVER?
TAKE IT EASY, BLAZE! IT'S A FREE COUNTRY! SHE CAN SAY WHAT SHE WANTS!
SURE, TED--BUT SHE GETS HER STORY ON NATIONAL TV! WE DON'T!
ARNIE... BLAZE--THAT'S ENOUGH!
WE KNOW WHAT WE STAND FOR! WE DON'T HAVE TO PROVE OURSELVES!
B-BUT I DO, FLY--TO A PRODUCER WHO WILL FIRE ME IF I DON'T GET THE STORY HE WANTS!
HMPHHH!
I'M SORRY IF THIS HAS EMBARRASSED YOU, FLY!
NOT AT ALL, SEÑORITA!
AND, WHILE THE FLY ASSURES THE YOUNG CURATOR THAT ALL IS WELL, WE CUT TO...
THE ART OF MY PEOPLE--RIVERA SIQUEIROS! THE WRITINGS OF MARTI--OF ALBIZU CAMPOS!
IT--IT'S INSPIRING TO STAND AMIDST THE WORKS OF MEN WITH A PURPOSE!
LIBERTAD PARA PUERTO RICO
THAT OF GIVING HONOR AND DIGNITY BACK TO THE HISPANIC PEOPLES!
BUT SUDDENLY...
KSSSSTT
EH? THAT SOUND...?
IT CAME FROM THIS ORANGE-- BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTH--
LIBERTAD AHORA

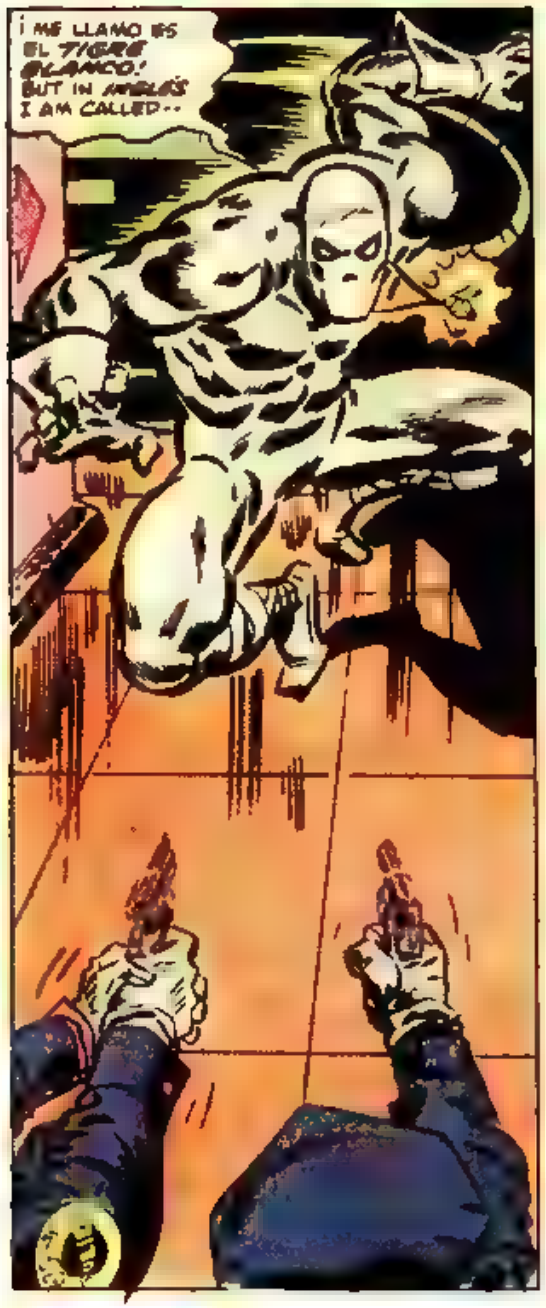
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

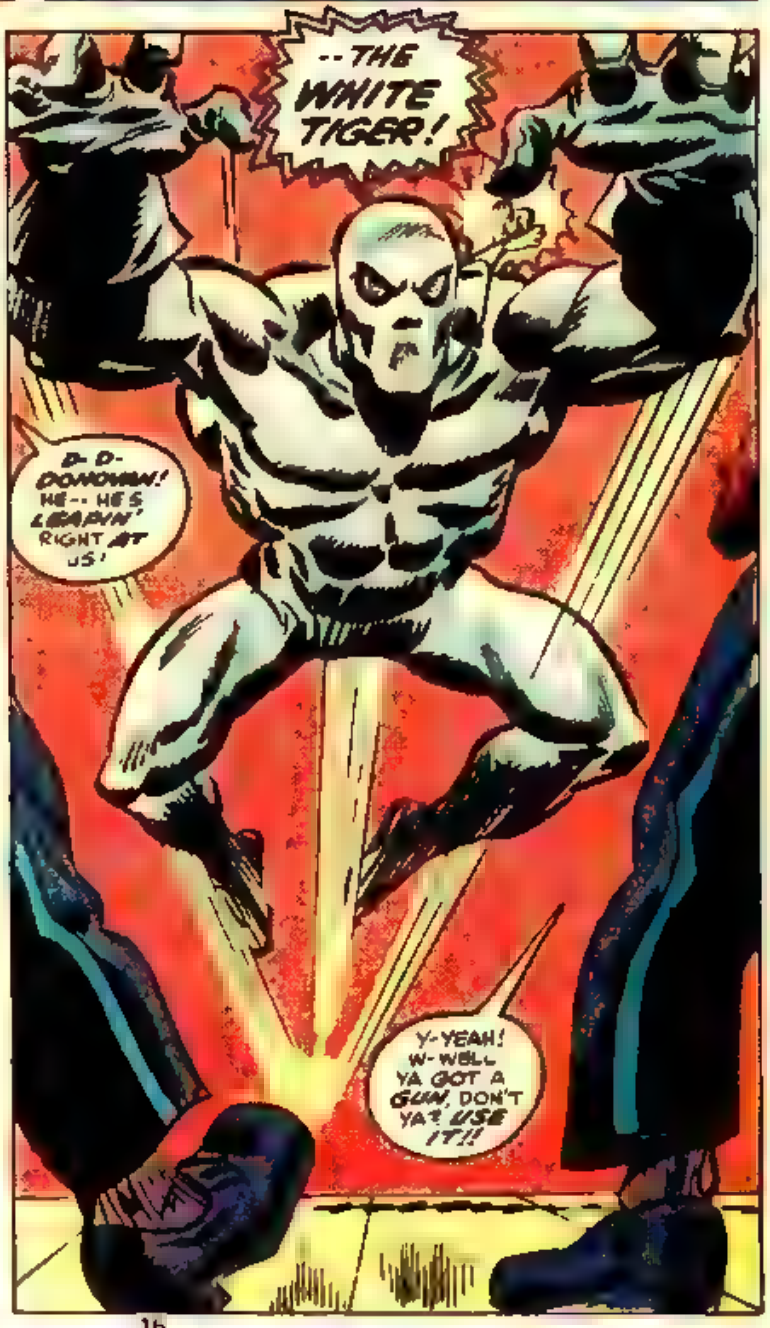
¡CARAJO! HE... IS DEAD!
LIBERTAD PARA PUERTO
KILLED BY THIS-- SOME KIND OF A DART!
BODY'S STILL WARM! THE KILLER CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR! I'D BETTER...!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, CHICO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF A GHOUL YOU ARE-- KILLIN' MR. WYLIE AN' THEN STICKIN' AROUND TO PUT PENNIES ON HIS EYELIDS--
--BUT YOU MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE, AN' I'LL BLOW YOU AWAY!
LA POLICIA!
NO! MUSEUM COPS-- NOT USED TO MURDER, AND MORE SCARED THAN I AM! I'LL NEVER TRACK THE REAL KILLER IF I LET THEM TAKE ME!
JERTAD
RA
H-HEY..!
LO SIENTO, SENORES--
SPAK!
PEEEOWWWW
TCHOW!
BLAM!
BLAM!
--BUT I'D BEST BE ON MY WAY!
KICU

¡HOYE! A COMPAÑERO--IN TROUBLE WITH THE COPS!
WE'LL RUN INTERFERENCE FOR YOU, HERMANO!
MUCHAS GRACIAS, MIS AMIGOS!
GET OUTTA THE WAY YOU STUPID KIDS!
LIBERTAD
THAT I HOPE THEY DO NOT DO, SEÑOR
FOR, IF THEY CAN KEEP YOU AWAY FROM ME FOR JUST A FEW SECONDS LONGER--
--IT WILL GIVE ME THE TIME I NEED TO--
"--CHANGE!"
¡HOYE! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PUSH--?!
D-DONOVAN? DID YOU SEE THAT FLASH OF LIGHT FROM AROUND THE CORNER?
PTOW!
T-THE SAME CORNER THE KID WE'RE CHASIN' JUST TURNED?
WHILE, DOWNSTAIRS IN THE MUSEUM'S LOBBY...
FLY-- GUNSHOTS!
BLAM! BLAM!
INNER C FESTIVA
THEY-- THEY'RE COMING FROM UPSTAIRS-- THE HISPANIC EXHIBIT!
HEY LOOK! THERE GOES THE FUZZ!
AIN'T YOU GONNA HELP THEM, MISTER FLY?
I'M AFRAID NOT, KIDS! I'M A STUNT-MAN--NOT A CRIME-FIGHTER! AND MY MAIN RESPONSIBILITY RIGHT NOW--
--IS TO YOU KIDS AND TO YOUR PARENTS! COME ON! WE'LL HEAD FOR THE LOWER LEVEL--WHERE IT'S SAFE!
AWWW, GEE WHIZ!

WHILE UNSTAIRS
THAT FLASH OF LIGHT GOT TO MY EYES-- BUT THEY'RE CLEARING NOW!
BE CAREFUL! I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE MOVE!

THAT YOU DID, OFFICER DONOVAN! THAT YOU DID!
HOLA SENORES!
SWEET MOTHER OF MERCY! WHO--?!?


¡ME LLAMO ES EL TIGRE BLANCO! BUT IN INGLES I AM CALLED--


--THE WHITE TIGER!
D-D-DONOVAN! HE-- HE'S LEAPIN' RIGHT AT US!
Y-YEAH! W-WELL YA GOT A GUN, DON'T YA? USE IT!!

POW!POW!
FLY-- THEY'VE STARTED SHOOTING AGAIN!
ARNIE THE KIDS ARE OUR FIRST PRIORITY! WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM OFF THIS STAIRWAY--
- BEFORE THEY'RE HURT N THE STAMPEDE!
HOW ABOUT IN HERE FLY-- THE GREEK STATUARY ROOM?
LOOKS QUIET ENOUGH, TED! ALL RIGHT! YOU GET THE KIDS TAKEN CARE OF--
--WHILE I CHECK OUT THE REASON FOR ALL THE SHOOTING!
HEY! I THOUGHT HE SAID HE WASN'T A CRIME-FIGHTER!
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU? HE FORGOT!
BE CAREFUL, SEÑOR FLY!
G-GOSH!
SENSING THE CHILDREN'S GROWING FEAR SEÑORITA MERCADO TRIES TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE FLY!
THE ANCIENT GREEKS WERE MASTER CRAFTSMEN, CHILDREN--
--AND THIS HUGE TEMPLE LION, MADE IN 450 B.C., IS THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND EVER TO BE FOUND!
I--I SURE WISH THE FLY WAS HERE TO SEE IT WITH US!
SO DO I. N-NO--SO DO I!

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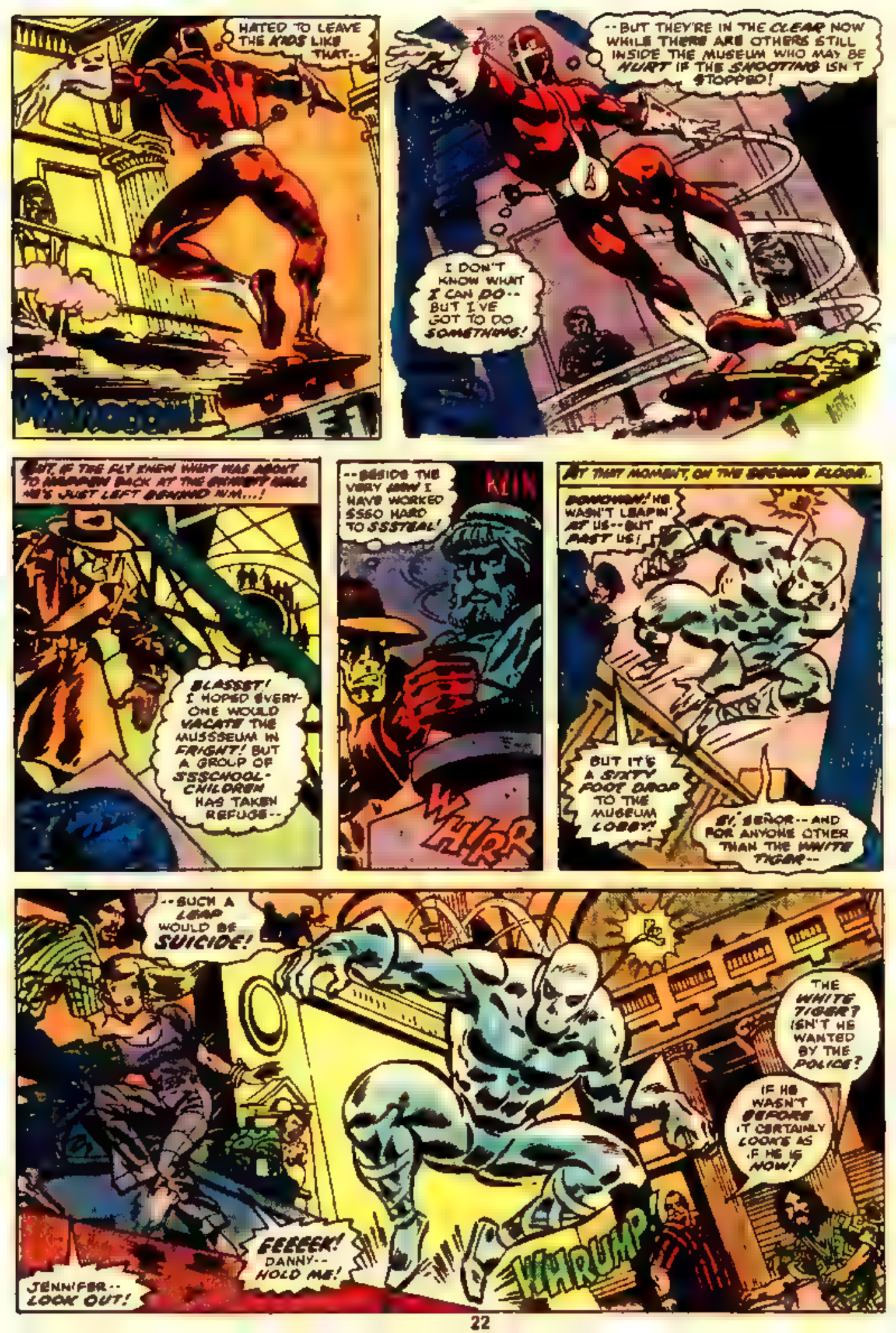
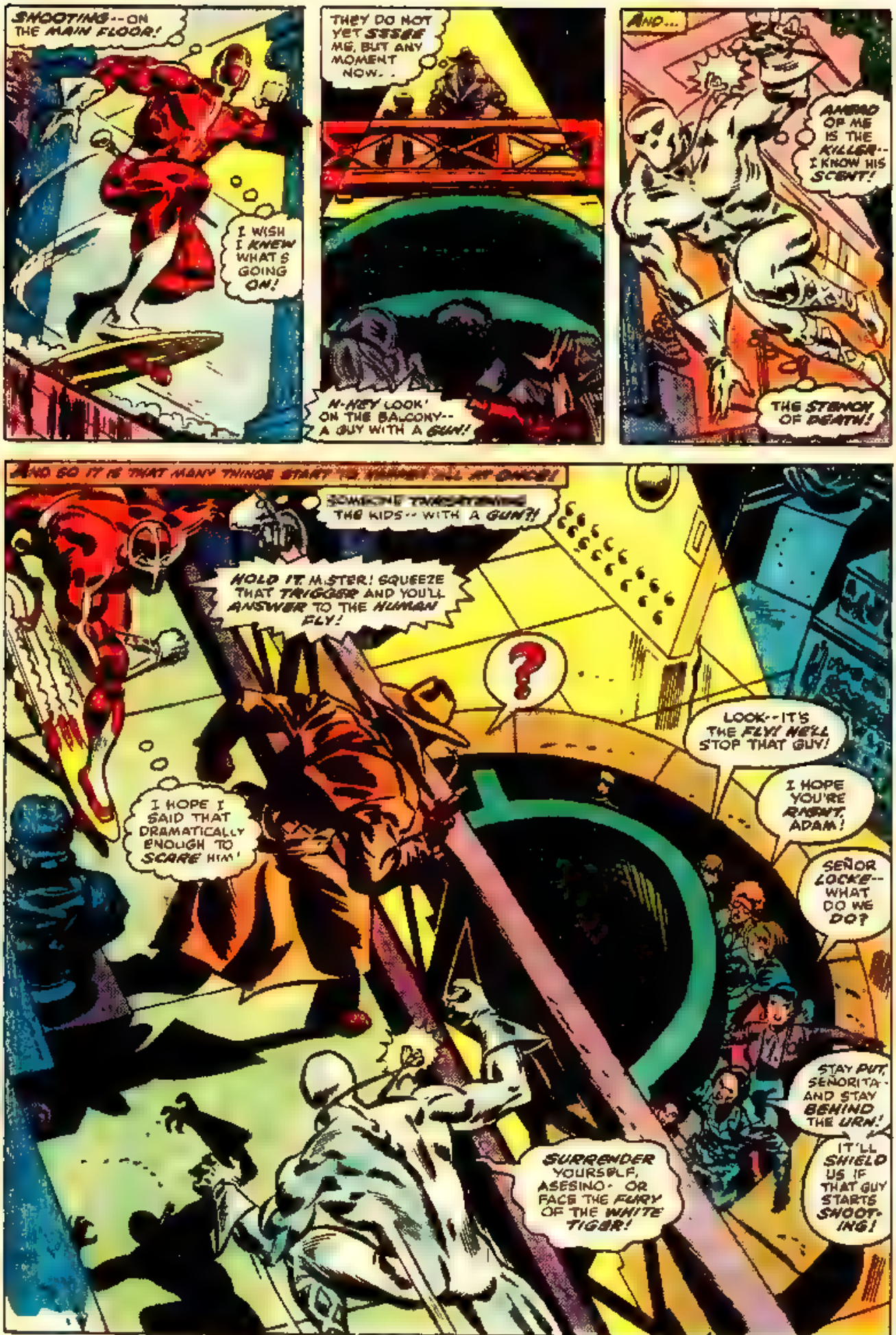

HATED TO LEAVE THE KIDS LIKE THAT--
--BUT THEY'RE IN THE CLEAR NOW WHILE THERE ARE OTHERS STILL INSIDE THE MUSEUM WHO MAY BE HURT IF THE SHOOTING ISN'T STOPPED!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO-- BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
BUT, IF THE FLY KNEW WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN BACK AT THE ARMORY HALL HE'S JUST LEFT BEHIND HIM...!
BLASSET! I HOPED EVERY-ONE WOULD VACATE THE MUSSSEUM IN FRIGHT! BUT A GROUP OF SSSCHOOL-CHILDREN HAS TAKEN REFUGE--
--BESIDE THE VERY GEM I HAVE WORKED SSSO HARD TO SSSTEAL!
KLIN
WHIRR
AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
BONKOWSKI! HE WASN'T LEAPIN' AT US--BUT PAST US!
BUT IT'S A SIXTY FOOT DROP TO THE MUSEUM LOBBY!!
SI, SEÑOR--AND FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN THE WHITE TIGER--
--SUCH A LEAP WOULD BE SUICIDE!
THE WHITE TIGER? ISN'T HE WANTED BY THE POLICE?
IF HE WASN'T BEFORE IT CERTAINLY LOOKS AS IF HE IS NOW!
EEEEEK! DANNY--HOLD ME!
WHRUMP!
JENNIFER--LOOK OUT!


SHOOTING--ON THE MAIN FLOOR!
I WISH I KNEW WHAT'S GOING ON!
THEY DO NOT YET SSSEE ME, BUT ANY MOMENT NOW...
N-NEY LOOK! ON THE BALCONY--A GUY WITH A GUN!
AND...
AHEAD OF ME IS THE KILLER--I KNOW HIS SCENT!
THE STENCH OF DEATH!
AND SO IT IS THAT MANY THINGS START TO HAPPEN ALL AT ONCE!
SOMEONE THREATENING THE KIDS--WITH A GUN?!
HOLD IT, MISTER! SQUEEZE THAT TRIGGER AND YOU'LL ANSWER TO THE HUMAN FLY!
?
I HOPE I SAID THAT DRAMATICALLY ENOUGH TO SCARE HIM!
LOOK--IT'S THE FLY! HE'LL STOP THAT GUY!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, ADAM!
SEÑOR LOCKE--WHAT DO WE DO?
STAY PUT, SEÑORITA--AND STAY BEHIND THE URN!
IT'LL SHIELD US IF THAT GUY STARTS SHOOTING!
SURRENDER YOURSELF, ASESINO--OR FACE THE FURY OF THE WHITE TIGER!

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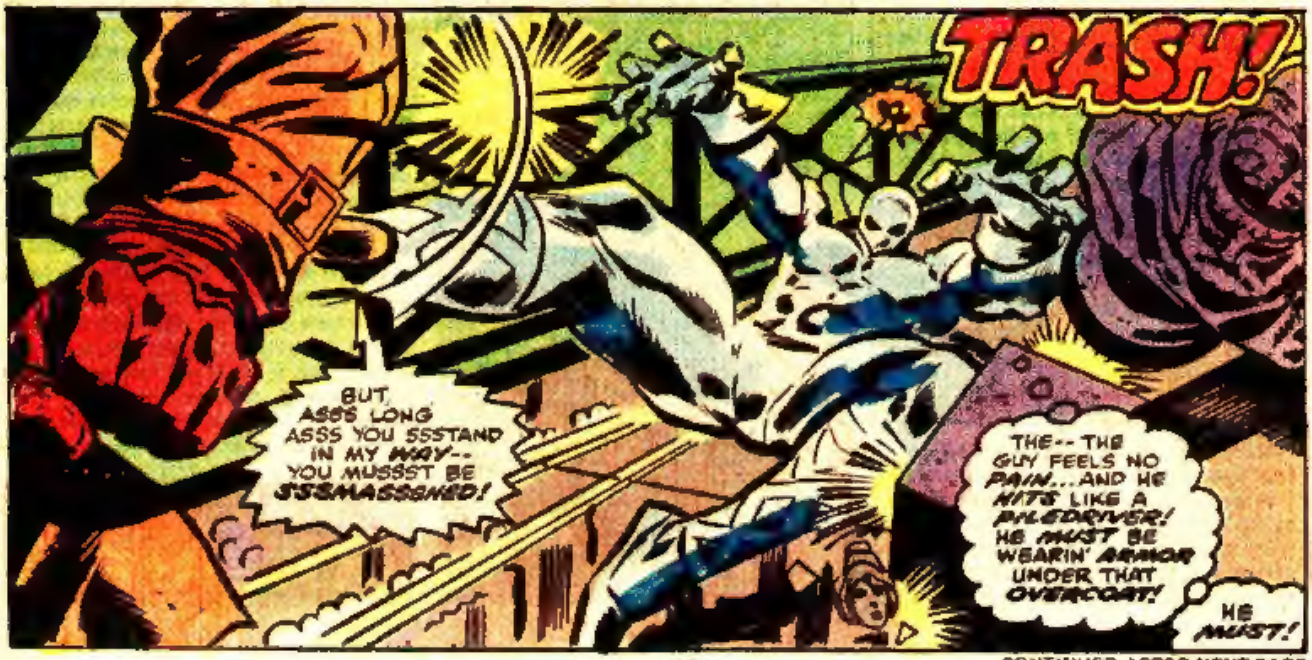
BUT SO SUDDENLY HAS EVERYTHING STARTED HAPPENING, THAT THOSE IN THE EXHIBITION HALL ONLY NOW BEGIN TO NOTICE...
M-MISTER LOCKE? T-THIS IS GONNA SOUND C-CRAZY, BUT--
--THE FLOOR WE BEEN STANDIN ON..IT'S SINKIN'!!
FLY POWER
M-MY GOD, SON--YOU'RE RIGHT! IT IS MOVING!
YEAH--AN US WITH IT!
B-BUT..THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
MAYBE SO, SEÑORITA--BUT IT'S HAPPENING! I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT GUY UP THERE WITH THE GUN IS BUT I'M BETTING HE IS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE--
--AND THAT THIS WHOLE THING IS PART OF A PLAN TO STEAL THE URN!
STOP THE FLOOR FROM SINKING, SEÑOR! AT ONCE!
NEVER, FOOL.
WHAT COPPERHEAD WANTSSS--COPPERHEAD GETSSS!
AND, ASSS FOR YOU...!
WHAP!
UNNHHH!
HE--HE JUST BACKHANDED ME...YET IT FELT LIKE BEING HIT WITH A CROWBAR!
I--I'VE LOST MY BALANCE... GOING OVER THE BALCONY GUARDRAIL!!
GOT TO CLEAR MY HEAD--GET INTO POSITION--


TRASH!
BUT ASSS LONG ASSS YOU SSSTAND IN MY WAY-- YOU MUSSST BE SSSMASSSHED!
THE-- THE GUY FEELS NO PAIN... AND HE HITS LIKE A PILEDRIVER! HE MUST BE WEARIN' ARMOR UNDER THAT OVERCOAT!
HE MUST!

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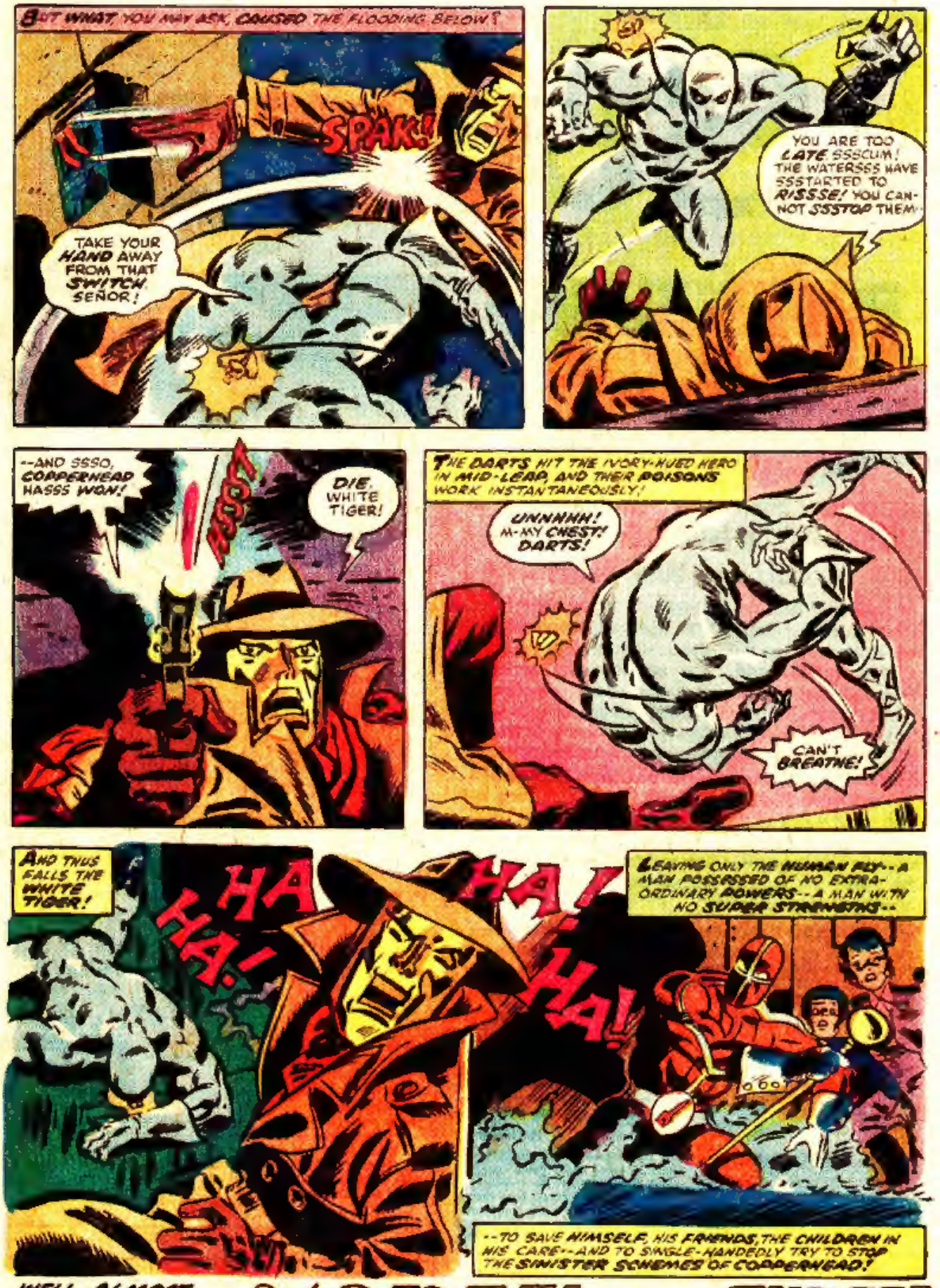
WHILE BELOW...
I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! THE SECTION OF FLOORING WHICH HOLDS THE URN IS VANISHING BENEATH THE FLOOR OF THE EXHIBIT HALL--AND WE CAN'T GET THE KIDS OFF IT BECAUSE OF ALL THE WILD SHOOTING!
BUT MY PLACE IS HERE! FOR BETTER OR WORSE--
--THAT FELLOW WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE WHITE TIGER WILL HAVE TO FIGHT ON ... ALONE!
M-MR. FLY, IT--IT'S DARK IN HERE!
I CAN FIX THAT, HONEY--WITH THE GLOBE-LIGHT ON MY BATON!
HMMM! WE APPEAR TO BE IN AN ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL BELOW THE MUSEUM!
WHOEVER CONJURED UP THIS SCHEME WAS CERTAINLY EFFICIENT... AND RICH! THE HYDRAULIC PLATFORM BUILT TO LOWER THE URN MUST HAVE COST A FORTUNE!
MR. FLY--YOU HEAR THAT SOUND?
WHAT? SHHH, EVERYONE!
RRRSSSSSHHHH
LET ME LISTEN!
HE HEARS IT! A RUSHING SOUND, DIM AT FIRST, BUT GROWING LOUDER...NEARER! A FAMILIAR SOUND--
--IF ONE HAS EVER FACED AN ONRUSHING FLOOD AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT!
WATER! THE TUNNEL IS BEING FLOODED WITH WATER!!
DON'T PANIC, KIDS! STAY CALM!
C-CALM? MR. BERMAN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND??!
WE'RE GONNA DROWN!!
RRUUSSHHHH


BUT WHAT, YOU MAY ASK, CAUSED THE FLOODING BELOW?
SPAK!
TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY FROM THAT SWITCH, SEÑOR!
YOU ARE TOO LATE, SSSCUM! THE WATERSSS HAVE SSSTARTED TO RISSSE! YOU CANNOT SSSTOP THEM!
--AND SSSO, COPPERHEAD HASSS WON!
DIE, WHITE TIGER!
THE DARTS HIT THE IVORY-HUED HERO IN MID-LEAP, AND THEIR POISONS WORK INSTANTANEOUSLY!
UNNNHH! M-MY CHEST! DARTS!
CAN'T BREATHE!
AND THUS FALLS THE WHITE TIGER!
HA HA!
HA! HA!
LEAVING ONLY THE HUMAN FLY--A MAN POSSESSED OF NO EXTRAORDINARY POWERS--A MAN WITH NO SUPER STRENGTHS--
--TO SAVE HIMSELF, HIS FRIENDS, THE CHILDREN IN HIS CARE--AND TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY TRY TO STOP THE SINISTER SCHEMES OF COPPERHEAD!
WELL, ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY!
NEXT ISSUE:
DAREDEVIL MAKES THREE!

FLY PAPERS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. NYC. 10022

As we announced on this page in HUMAN FLY #5, the *real* Human Fly was scheduled to make a rocket-motorcycle jump over 25 buses—a new world's record—at Montreal's Olympic Stadium on October 7th.

Well, the Fly *made* the jump, but only seconds after he blasted off a long ply-board ramp, the motorcycle lost power, the back wheel dropped, and the Fly crashed onto the top of one of the buses only yards away from the receiving ramp.

Crashing through the plywood covering, the Human Fly was trapped in a tangle of iron struts, and lay there without moving while security guards fought to free him, fighting back a tearful crowd that had rushed on the field to get a better view.

Despite the violence of the impact, the stuntman was still conscious and raised both arms above his head in a salute to the crowd as he was led away on a stretcher to a waiting ambulance.

The newspapers, perhaps taking their cue from our own Harmony Whyte, panned the stunt, and even went so far as to say that the crash was a "fitting end." What they missed—what the Human Fly has been trying to say by putting his life on the line again and again—what we have been trying to say in the pages of this mag—is that "nothing ventured, nothing gained." It doesn't matter that the Fly failed to set a world's record, that a mechanical failure caught him up short, that he crashed. What does matter is that he *tried* to do something that no one, let alone a man who was told a scant six years ago he'd never even *walk* again, had ever dared to try.

That's the importance of the *Human Fly! That's* why we put out this mag! And, from your letters. . .that's why you *read it!*

In your *own* words. . .

Dear Marvel,

What *would* happen if the Fly were involved in a near-fatal accident and was seriously injured? Well, some writers have attempted to deal with that question, but never with such a relatively *real* character as the Human Fly. What would *happen* were he injured to such an extent that his recovery seemed improbable, or a long time in coming? Would he be replaced? Would he lose his credibility and be hounded, ridiculed and taunted by the media? Would he give up his masked identity? What would happen to his friends? After all, in the world of the Human Fly, these questions are not so much hypothetical as they are very real possibilities.

L. Henken
3610 Hutchison St
Montreal, Canada H2X 2H3

The questions you pose are questions we at the Bullpen, and Bill in particular, have given long and serious thought to. What, indeed, becomes of the comic magazine, the HUMAN FLY, should the real Human Fly. . .die, say, or become incapacitated? One answer, the only one that comes to us at the moment of this writing, is that we have strived for an illustration of the *concepts* embodied in the human being who calls himself the Fly. It is that conceptualization that finds its way into comic book expression. It is the *message* of the Human Fly, more than the man himself, that we bring you every thirty days. Given that. . .what *would* happen? Hopefully, we don't yet have to answer that question. We are awaiting news of the Fly's condition, and will pass on to you whatever we learn as *soon* as we learn it. In the meantime, thank you, L., for sending us the newspaper article and your thoughts. We appreciate them, and we know the Fly will, too.

Dear Bill, Frank, Rod, Jan, Joe, and Archie

Perhaps it was the weather, or maybe it was the bitter-sweet mood that rain often puts me in, or it might be that I am a little bit on the corny side, but no matter what the reason, THE HUMAN FLY #5 touched me and brought tears.

In the past issues of THE HUMAN FLY we have seen Marvel Super-heroes, car races, death leaps, mechanized monsters, mad-men, and news reporters created out of a cynical society. We have been told that the Fly gives hope to the handicapped through his stunts, and that all money goes to charity. But, in issue #5 we see the full effects the Fly has on the handicapped people for whom he performs.

Cripple. That must be the most ugly word in the English language. Yet, it is a fact that many must deal with every-day of their lives. But not all of us are strong enough to help ourselves, and that is why there is a man like The Human Fly. I believe that this issue marks a wonderful starting point for this powerful and colorful comic. We have seen the ground set down in the first four issues, and are now set to see the true worth of this man called The Human Fly.

Perhaps other people are ready to see him as the true giant he really is. On page 27, the symbol of the cynical society states that she, Ms. Whyte, is beginning to feel that anything the man behind the mask says *can* be done. . .*really* can be! And look at Malik! A man who started as a foil to the Human Fly becomes touched by the brave statements of a young girl to such a degree that he makes a turnabout. And, the children. . ." Maybe someday I can do that, too!" . . ."Don't be scared, Ms. Whyte! If the Fly says so. . .we can make it!" . . ."Forgive you, M'sieu? Non! I should thank you, instead!" What person with any touch of humanity could read these words, and see the expressions which Frank so carefully developed on paper, and not see something more than a truly fine *"Comic"*? Bill, Frank, Rod, you have produced a beautiful and moving work of art.

As I said, I believe that this issue marks a new start for the Fly. The adventure-story plot is still there, and so is the danger produced by an unthinking person. But, gone are the super-hero types, the mechanical monsters, and the power-hungry people. These character types and story elements have their place in the other great Marvel comics, not in the introspective Human Fly. I hope that you will try new experiments with this character. Let us see him working more and more toward the man who is a symbol for the handicapped. Sure, we want to see him take on jobs that pay well so he can give more money to charity. Sure, we want to see grandstand adventure, good over evil, the man of skill win out over those filled with greed. But, please don't let the real reason that there is a Human Fly in the real world escape the pages of your comic. He is here as a *symbol*. Someone who has worked and trained for the day when he could perform stunts against death and make it look easy. . .a man who has become the highest order of humanity. . . a giver.

I know how it feels to lie in a hospital bed and wonder if the steel in a leg will someday let me stand and run again. I understand how it feels to learn how to walk all over again. But, when I was going through my therapy there was no Human Fly, not yet at least. For during the time that a child was walking up and down the halls of an Oklahoma hospital, a man was pulling himself out of a bed in North Carolina to prove to the rest of us that anyone can make it. . .even a man who has had almost 60% of his bone structure replaced.

The steel in my leg is infinitesimal to that of the Human Fly's. Yet, I feel a certain attachment to this person. So, please give this one comic a chance to be different. Bill, try to do away with the guns and the hitting. Instead, show the gentleness that is generated by the character and personality of one such as The Human Fly. Marvel Comics are well known for daring to be different. . . Dare with the Human Fly!

Tom Gordon
Oklahoma City, OK